

March 31, 1976

SENATOR DWORAK: Does this bill have a self-destruct provision?

SENATOR MURPHY: At the end of three years or as soon as insurance is available. At that time any funds that have been collected will be, less the operating costs of course, the funds in the pool will be returned to those whom they were solicited from.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you. I see nothing wrong with this bill at all. It does not mandate anything. It doesn't cause anything to happen. It allows something to happen if the need arises in the future. I think that's just a prudent step by this Legislature to take care of the contingency if it should arise. I would hope that we would not support Senator Chambers in his endeavor to move this back.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in support of Senator Murphy. LB 917 is going to be implemented in the event that all else fails. Senator Chambers has indicated he has no confidence in LB 434. I'm sure he feels the same as far as reluctance about LB 809. Now if I were to question Senator Chambers I'm sure that he would insist that the poor people have the right to adequate health care. He's been the champion of the poor and underprivileged and the handicapped. I've joined him many times in those concerns. I'd like to suggest that perhaps those individuals who pay their own bills, who buy their own insurance, who provide for themselves have the right to health care also. That's what we're doing with LB 917. In the event that everything else fails we have a backup provision where the Department of Insurance can come in and provide insurance. I think it's time we stopped talking about situations, hypothetical situations which will not occur, may not occur, probably never will occur and face the hard facts of life. There's a devil of a lot of people out here that are paying their own bills, paying their own insurance premiums, paying the taxes to support the welfare people who demand many privileges from this body. I think it's time we take care of the guys who pay the taxes and go to work in the morning and do their own job and don't demand a lot of things from the public. That's what we're doing here. I suggest we oppose the motion to return the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Nebraska Legislature. I agree with most of the statements that Senator Chambers made. I agree wholeheartedly with the letter that he read, but I reach an entirely different conclusion. I am aware that the people of Nebraska ... there is one single thread that runs through their desire in our state and it's for continued and better medical delivery services. I am aware that should malpractice insurance be unavailable to any section of this medical delivery industry that they could not work. It would be completely impossible financially for them to continue to operate their profession. LB 917 is one vehicle that's sitting in the wings should it be necessary to start it up and drive it out where it could be useful to medical